

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJ: WCL AND WFTU LEADERS MEET IN PRAGUE

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: LEADERS OF THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR
(WCL) AND THE COMMUNIST WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (WFTU)
MET IN PRAGUE ON MARCH 11-12. THIS WAS THE THIRD MEETING
BETWEEN THE SECRETARIATS OF THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS SINCE THE
WCL INSTITUTED A POLICY OF CREATING BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE
WFTU AND THE ICFTU IN 1972. END SUMMARY.

2. WCL GENERAL SECRETARY BRUCK AND ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARIES
FONTAINEAU AND GONZALES MERCED REPRESENTED THE WCL AT THE
MARCH 11-12 MEETINGS WITH THE WFTU SECRETARIAT IN PRAGUE.
GONZALES TOLD THE MISSION LABOR ATTACHE THAT THIS HAD BEEN
THE MOST CONSTRUCTIVE OF THE MEETINGS BETWEEN THE TWO ORGANIZA-
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TIONS THUS FAR AND THAT ANOTHER MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE LATER

THIS YEAR.

3. ACCORDING TO A WCL PRESS RELEASE, THE TWO DELEGATIONS AGREED THAT THE WCL AND WFTU SHOULD BEGIN QUOTE WORK TOGETHER TOWARDS WORKERS' SOLIDARITY AND TRADE UNION ACTION IN TOPICAL FIELDS SUCH AS: THE CONTINUATION OF APARTHEID ACTION; ACTION AGAINST MULTI-NATIONAL COMPANIES; SUPPORT OF THE WORKING CLASSES IN CHILE; THE FIGHT AGAINST FASCISM AND MILITARISM; THE PRESENTATION AND SUPPORT OF WORKERS' CLAIMS IN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (IN PARTICULAR AT THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE FOR ENERGY AND RAW MATERIALS, AT THE SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON MULTI-NATIONAL COMPANIES AND AT THE ILO); ACTION FOR SOLIDARITY WITH TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS FIGHTING AGAINST ALL FORMS OF DOMINATION AND FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. END QUOTE

4. COMMENT: BRUCK RECENTLY TOLD US THAT HE WAS UNDER NO DELUSIONS ABOUT SOVIET INTENTIONS TO EXPLOIT EAST-WEST MEETINGS FOR THEIR OWN POLITICAL PURPOSES, BUT THAT THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE WEST TO INFLUENCE NON-SOVIET EAST BLOC TRADE UNIONS MORE THAN COMPENSATED FOR THIS SOVIET ADVANTAGE. HOWEVER, IF THE RESULTS OF THIS MINI EAST-WEST MEETING IN PRAGUE CAN BE USED AS A BAROMETER TO GAUGE BRUCK'S EFFECTIVENESS IN INFLUENCING THE EAST, HE MUST BE CONSIDERED A PRIME CANDIDATE FOR PURCHASE OF THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE. BRUCK'S VIEWS DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THOSE OF ALL WCL LEADERS, BUT THEY ARE REPRESENTATIVE ENOUGH TO CAUSE REFLECTION ON THE NATURE OF THE SUBJECT MATTER OF FUTURE EAST-WEST TRADE UNION MEETINGS. GREENWALD

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